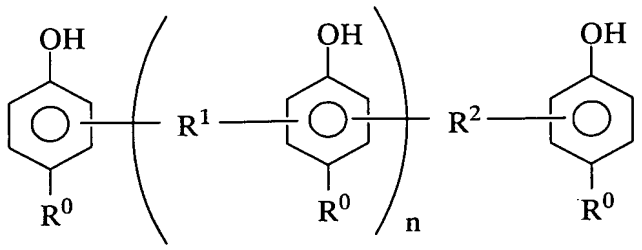
CLAIMS

1. A rubber composition characterized by compounding a rubber component comprised of at least one of natural rubber and synthetic diene rubbers with a phenolic resin represented by the following formula (I):



..... (I)

(wherein R^0 is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a phenyl group or a methylol group, and each of R^1 and R^2 is an arylene group, an alkylene group having a carbon number of 2-10, an aralkylene group, a cycloalkenylene group or a cycloalkadienylene group, and n is 0-10).

2. A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein each of R^1 and R^2 in the formula (I) is a xylylene group.

3. A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein each of R^1 and R^2 in the formula (I) is [1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-dimethylene group.

4. A rubber composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein R^0 in the formula (I) is a hydrogen atom.

5. A rubber composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

6. A rubber composition according to claim 5, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-10 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

7. A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein a hardening agent as a methylene donor is contained in the rubber composition at an amount corresponding to 1-30% by mass of the phenolic resin of the formula (I).

8. A rubber composition according to claim 7, wherein the hardening agent is hexamethylene tetramine.